

Your guide to the
Nebraska Library
Commission
July 1, 2014–
June 30, 2015
Year in Review
FY2015

Compass

N E W S L E T T E R

Vol. 20 No. 1

Financial Education Builds Nebraska Communities

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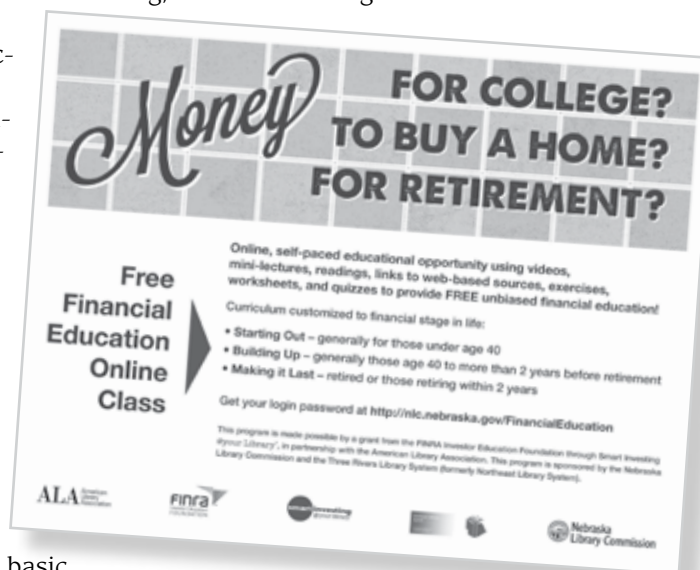
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The Nebraska Library Commission recently completed a 23-month grant project with funding from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, in partnership with the American Library Association. The *Smart Investing@your library® Builds Nebraska Communities™* project, a collaboration with the Three Rivers Library System (formerly Northeast Library System), involved twenty-two libraries and several partners. It focused on library staff training, resource development (print and electronic), and library customer educational sessions (face-to-face and online).

The face-to-face inaugural educational event at each location allowed Extension Educators to introduce the online curriculum. Participants then worked through self-paced online courses, addressing basic financial management and investment topics—segmented for different age cohorts with attention to specific needs depending on life stage. Participants received support and encouragement from library staff at the local level and also had access to online Q&A services staffed by Extension educators. At the conclusion of the online series, participants reconvened for face-to-face sessions to assess

outcomes and maintain momentum for continued learning on financial topics. The results of pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires demonstrated that the majority of participants increased knowledge and confidence in the subject matter. They also rated the training highly (“educational content” and “overall program” garnering 98.3 and 97.3 percent favorable ratings), with the majority of the respondents judging the training as “excellent.”



The online financial education courses were also made available to all Nebraska residents as a stand-alone educational opportunity. They continue to be used, and individuals can register for the courses at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/financialeducation>. For more information contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission Grants Coordinator, joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed all the lessons and learned tons thru the education. I appreciate all the effort it has taken to put this together and hope we can do more classes like this in the future. We are so lucky to have such an excellent librarian in Gordon – she is a wealth of knowledge on so many things. Thanks again!”

– Participant,
Library Customer
Training, Gordon

“I was very pleased with attendance at the wrap-up, given the weather. The activities were very good. There was a lot of discussion on things people learned, the format of the curriculum and what people liked or didn’t like. Everyone was pleased to learn that the online curriculum will remain open for further learning. I had a lot of great comments also on the books and DVDs we got for the library with the grant. All in all, I think we were successful. Thank you for this opportunity to offer this to our community. It will undoubtedly continue to have a positive impact.”

– Jennifer Norton,
Director
Neligh Public Library

From the Director...

We are pleased to present the Nebraska Library Commission's annual report highlighting notable activities, events, projects, and successes during the past year. Along with the Library Commission's ongoing programs and services several special projects have involved much time and effort this past year. The Commission's two-year grant project *Smart Investing @your library® Builds Nebraska Communities™* was successfully completed in mid-2015, in partnership with the Northeast Library System and Nebraska's public libraries. Funding for the project came from the American Library Association and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation.

The Commission's weekly *NCompass Live* webinars have continued to offer various and timely topics important to Nebraska's library workers, trustees, friends, and advocates. And the *Big Talk from Small Libraries* online conference was held again earlier this year. The conference was first held in 2013.

The still new Public Library Accreditation requirements (adopted in 2013) have challenged libraries to design new strategic plans and work through the point-based guidelines to achieve varying levels of accreditation. This more flexible approach allows libraries to offset weaknesses in certain areas with strengths in others. We appreciate the work and progress made by libraries that have gone through the accreditation cycle and those working toward renewal of their accreditation. Also to be acknowledged are those achieving accreditation for the first time.

The Nebraska Legislature and Governor approved additional funding for Nebraska eReads during the 2015 legislative session. State funds supplement local funds for the growing library of eBooks and digital audiobooks available through public libraries across Nebraska. By mid-2015 the number of Nebraska public libraries in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Group had grown to 168. The Library Commission's NebraskaAccess service introduced a re-constituted set of

(continued on page 4)

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Nebraska Library Commissioners: **Sherry Crow**, Chair, Kearney, term expires 2016; **Steve Batty**, Vice-Chair, McCook, term expires 2015; **Diane Boyd**, South Sioux City, term expires 2015; **Molly Fisher**, term expires 2018; **Patricia Gross**, Bayard, term expires 2016; **Michael LaCroix**, Omaha, term expires 2016, **Susan Warneke**, Norfolk, term expires June 2018 and **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha, term expires June 2018.

Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month or as scheduled by public action of the board.

This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Nebraska Library Commission Funding July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

State of Nebraska Funds	\$3,925,777
Federal Funds	1,302,758
Cash Funds	91,622
Total	\$5,320,157

Projects Funded through the Nebraska Library Commission July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Braille Services (Utah State Library)	\$ 1,875
Collaborative Summer Library Program	5,333
Continuing Education and Training	6,850
Electronic Information Resources	401,850
United for Libraries	10,163
Interlibrary Loan (Lender Compensation)	80,804
Local Library Public Computer Centers (NTIA/BTOP/Gates)	5,640
Motion Picture Licensing for Public Libraries	16,388
Nebraska Center for the Book	2,000
OverDrive Downloadable Books	163,170
Public Library Statistical Reporting Software	4,125
Regional Library Systems	485,519
Scholarships, Stipends, Internships	31,114
State Aid to Public Libraries	364,475
Youth Grants for Excellence	26,565
Total	\$1,605,871

NOTE: Project funds may be distributed over more than one fiscal year.

Commissioners Guide Library Commission



Commissioners and staff work together at Commission meeting (l.-r.) Commissioner Molly Fisher, Commissioner Michael LaCroix, Tessa Terry, Jennifer Wrampe, Commissioner Susan Warneke, and Commissioner Sherry Crow.

Nebraska Library Commission staff members want to thank the Library Commissioners who served during this past biennium for their commitment to improving Nebraska library services. As representatives of the public appointed by the governor, the Commissioners are the primary force ensuring that the agency is fully responsible for the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library programs and services in accordance with nationally acceptable library standards. They are primarily involved in policy making, director relations, strategic planning, fiscal matters, operations, and advocacy. Their dedication and involvement is integral to our success.

Commissioners are appointed by the governor and serve three-year terms. Meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board. For more information, including meeting minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission website at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>, search on Commission Meetings. Commissioners who served during FY2015 were: **Steve Batty**, McCook; **Diane Boyd**, South Sioux City; **Sherry Crow**, Kearney; **Patricia Gross**, Bayard; **Molly Fisher**, Lincoln; **Michael LaCroix**, Omaha, **Susan Warneke**, Norfolk, and **Debby Whitehill Bloom**, Omaha. ➡

"One of our students, currently a sophomore, has been doing a National History Day project every year since sixth grade. She has continually been successful and many of those books you have sent us over the years have been for her projects. She is a faithful user of ILL and wouldn't be able to complete her projects without your service. In fact last week you helped her with some magazine articles she had been searching for. I thought you might be interested in the fact that she was selected for National History Day trip to Normandy, France."

– Kara Welch, Ainsworth Community Schools

Library Commission Staff Transitions

Arrivals

- **Tan Ngo**, Accountant
- **Cecelia Ramsey**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor
- **Sam Shaw**, Planning and Data Services Coordinator
- **Tessa Terry**, Staff Assistant
- **Nicholas Westra**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation Technician

Departures

- **Bill Ainsley**, Talking Book and Braille Service Audio Production Studio Manager
- **Kathryn Brockmeier**, Research Assistant
- **Emily Dust Nimsakont**, Cataloging Librarian
- **Beth Goble**, Historical Services Librarian
- **Michael Sauers**, Technology Innovation Librarian
- **Diane Wotipka**, Accountant

Reassignments

- **Dave Eckmann**, Talking Book and Braille Service Circulation Technician to Studio and Book Circulation Support Staff Assistant
- **Gabe Kramer**, Talking Book and Braille Service Book Circulation Support Staff Assistant to Audio Production Studio Manager
- **Aimee Owen**, Talking Book and Braille Service Readers Advisor to Information Services Librarian

Employee of the Year 2015



Anna Walter,
Talking Book and
Braille Service
Readers Advisor

Manager of the Year 2015



Devra Dragos,
Technology &
Access Services
Director

From the Director...

NebraskaAccess online database subscriptions, with notable improvements in coverage and availability. In addition, Nebraska Memories continues to evolve with additional historical images and documents.

Especially notable is the reconfiguration of Nebraska's regional library systems. Thanks to regional system boards, system directors, and libraries for their efforts to reconfigure regional system areas, work through a lengthy list of legal requirements, develop new plans and policies, and much more. Those efforts resulted in the newly reconstituted regions in place by January 2015.

Once again, the Nebraska Library Commission wishes to acknowledge with great appreciation the service and dedication of the thousands of library workers, trustees, friends, and advocates who strive to offer exceptional service to Nebraskans. ♦

Compass E-NEWSLIST

Are you missing out on important library information?

Subscribe to the Nebraska Library Commission's *NCompass E-Newsletter* for weekly access to information about Nebraska library activities.
<http://eepurl.com/HSkX>

A weekly news sheet from the Nebraska Library Commission, <http://nlc.nebraska.gov>

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Ed. Note:

Due to state budget reductions, future print editions of the **NCompass Newsletter** will be limited to the Annual/Bienial Report editions, until further notice. To receive regular information from the Nebraska Library Commission, subscribe to the weekly **NCompass E-Newsletter**. Fill out the form at <http://eepurl.com/HSkX> to stay abreast of Nebraska library activities. Receive a weekly email in your inbox (currently Mondays around 9:00 a.m. CT) with a short summary of each posting on the **NCompass Blog** from the previous week. Click on the headline in the email message to read the complete content of the blog post and to comment.



Nebraskans Speak Out for Libraries

Representing Nebraska are (l.-r.) Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Sharon Burd, Legislative Aide for Sen. Deb Fischer; Sherry Crow, Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska School Librarians Association; Michael LaCroix, Nebraska Library Commission; and Steve Fosselman, Nebraska Library Association.

In Spring 2015 Nebraska library representatives traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in national library advocacy activities. They met with Senators Sasse and Fischer. Since the House was in recess and Nebraska representatives were not in Washington at the time, they met with their staff. Among the issues discussed with the Nebraska congress-

sional delegation: Library Services and Technology Act and funding for Nebraska library services; school libraries and early learning (reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and inclusion of school libraries as necessary educational components); and support for the E-rate program for schools and libraries. ♦

Award Honors Director Rod Wagner

The Nebraska Center for the Book presented the 2015 Mildred Bennett Award to Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. The award honors Wagner for his many years of service to Nebraska's readers and writers, as an individual who has made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska. The 2015 award is a framed photograph by Steve Ryan entitled, "Woodcliff Lakes, NE.05."

The award is named for Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time president of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Edu-

cational Foundation. Bennett could have literally stepped out of a Willa Cather novel. Like some of Cather's heroines, she was a strong, fiercely

independent, intelligent woman, who loved the land and planted her roots deeply in the soil of Webster County, Nebraska. During her lifetime, Mildred Bennett was recognized as a foremost authority on Willa Cather by literary organizations and universities across the country. The award is presented annually at the Nebraska



Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner (l.) received the Mildred Bennett Award from Nebraska Center for the Book President Mary Ellen Ducey.

Book Festival. For more information about Center for the Book awards, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards.html>. ♦

Council Advises Commission

The State Advisory Council on Libraries was established by the Nebraska Library Commission to make recommendations on statewide library development, planning, and federal library programs—including providing input on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year Program Evaluation and the LSTA Long-Range Plan. The members represent all types of libraries and all areas of Nebraska. They consist of library professionals, paraprofessionals, supporters, and the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA) appoint liaison representatives each year.

They met three times during FY2015 and provided input on library legislation, policies, and issues. They focused on advocacy for libraries and library service—sharing strategies, data, and stories. One meeting centered on planning for the future of Nebraska libraries, with a focus on space planning and educational partnerships. Another meeting featured Nebraska Library Workforce issues and Continuing Education, with the council providing input on training needs. Each meeting included a report on the Nebraska Library Commission biennium budget request and timetable. Input was solicited on library programs including Nebraska Libraries and Digital Literacy, Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant Project “Cultivating Rural Librarians Technology Skills,” Library Marketing, Financial Education in Libraries, One Book One Nebraska, and the Regional Library Systems Reconfiguration. For more information about the Council, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/stadv>.

State Advisory Council members included:

Robin Bernstein, Freeman-Lozier Library, Bellevue University

Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Lyons

Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston

John Dale, Wayne

Ceri Daniels, Chair, Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather, LLP, Lincoln

Beth Falla, Lied Imperial Public Library

Susan Franklin, Hastings College Perkins Library

Denise Harders, Central Plains Library System, Hastings

Jean Hellwege, Lincoln Public Schools, NSLA Liaison

Sherry Houston, Papillion

Joann Jackson, Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center, Geneva

Beth Kabes, Chair, Educational Service Unit 7, Columbus

Cecelia Lawrence, North Platte Public Library

Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries

Trine McBride, Wayne

Julie Pinnell, Doane College Perkins Library, Crete

Norma Pountney, Omaha

Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library, Hyannis

Gayle Roberts, Blair Public Library, NLA Liaison

Sam Shaw, Nebraska State Penitentiary Library, Lincoln

Janet Stoeger Wilke, Ryan Library, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Matthew Williams, Kearney Public Library

Kara Welch, Ainsworth Community Schools

Merrillene Wood, Learning Resource Center, Western NE Community College, Sidney

Abbigail Yellman, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

PIONEER

Pioneer Consortium Grows with Support from Commission

The Pioneer Nebraska Library Automation Consortium began with four original libraries and has grown to twenty-two member libraries. Twenty-one of these members are public libraries (with one a combined school-public library), and one member is a community college library. Members include public libraries in Alma, Arapahoe, Atkinson, Axtell, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Central City, David City, Dundu County, Grand Island, Grant, Hildreth, Holdrege, Papillion, St. Paul, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Superior, Valley and Valparaiso, and Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff.

The Consortium employs the open-source software Koha, which provides a reasonably priced Integrated Library System (ILS) for libraries. It also serves as the basis of a growing union catalog, which could lead to a statewide catalog in the future. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, richard.miller@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665.



Library Commission Provides State Aid to Libraries

The Library Commission supported public libraries during the year with total payments of \$364,475 in direct state aid, including *Dollars for Data* and other special incentive awards. To be eligible for state aid, libraries must be accredited by the Nebraska Library Commission, must submit their annual *Public Libraries Survey* online, and their local funding must be at least equal to the lowest annual local income from the three previous years. Three additional libraries attained accreditation status and became eligible to receive state aid this year.

Direct State Aid. In 2015, 169 public libraries received state aid payments and 119 of these libraries also earned additional payments to acknowledge their achievement of Gold or Silver accreditation status.

Incentive Payments. Additional direct state aid payments, based on the amount of funds received from another public entity, were made to eighty libraries in 2015.

Dollars for Data. The Library Commission awarded payments of \$200 to forty-five unaccredited libraries that completed and submitted the annual *Public Libraries Survey* online. Providing public library data is an important activity for all libraries so that the Library Commission and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have an accurate picture of public library service throughout Nebraska communities. Since submitting the annual survey is a necessary step toward meeting the standards of service outlined in the *Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation*, these libraries are closer to achieving accredited status.

For more information, contact Sam Shaw, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, sam.shaw@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665. ➡

Nebraskans Are *United for Libraries*

In FY2015 Nebraska libraries continued to benefit from the resources and support of *United for Libraries*, a division of the American Library Association. *United for Libraries* brings together library voices to speak out on behalf of library services and free public access to information.

United for Libraries is a national network of enthusiastic library

supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses—educating and organizing the strongest voice for libraries: those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them.

The Library Commission supported membership to *United for Libraries* for all of the state's public libraries to ensure that Nebraska library staff, friends, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of services to enhance fund raising, advocacy, and public awareness. They used a special website (<http://www.ala.org/united/Nebraska>) for Nebraska libraries to

access *United for Libraries* for resources available to Nebraska library Trustees, library directors, and library staff at no charge to them, including:

Trustee Academy. Five online courses.

Short Takes for Trustees. Ten 10-minute training videos.

Baby Boomer Volunteers for Libraries and Friends. Webinar

series on recruitment and retention.

Resource Collection Zones.

Current and archived newsletters, toolkits, electronic publications, special offers, etc.

Power Guide for Successful Advocacy.

Step-by-step guide to developing an advocacy campaign, with examples of talking points, flyers, petitions, etc. at <http://www.ala.org/united/powerguide>.

For more information see *United for Libraries* at <http://www.ala.org/united/about> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, rod.wagner@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665. ➡



Accreditation Encourages Library Community Planning

Public library accreditation encourages excellent library service in Nebraska communities. It establishes minimum standards for library service, ensures that libraries adhere to those standards, offers service benchmarks, and provides evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed and expected by Nebraskans. The eighty-eight libraries accredited this year under the current Nebraska Public Library Accreditation Guidelines emphasized their efforts with library community planning as a requirement for accreditation. They also reported meeting twelve minimum requirements and accumulated points demonstrating strengths in library service.

Features of the current accredi-

tation process are the automatic inclusion on the application form of some statistics reported by the library through the annual statistical survey, comparisons of the library with "peer libraries" of similar size, and the requirement for the library to have an approved strategic plan that responds to identified community needs.

Library staff have commented on the ease of use of the application and on their appreciation of the progressive point total display as they work their way through it. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/libaccred> or contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, richard.miller@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665. ➡

Talking Books Move Upstairs

Daylight. That is often the first thing visitors notice about the Library Commission's new space on the west side of the first floor. Light streams through large display windows that date back to when the building housed a department store. In 2015, the Commission completed a year-long project to move the Library Commission's Talking Books and Braille Service stacks, circulation, audio production, and audio duplication, along with a training room, from the lower level to a space on the street level. The new space is across the lobby from the Nebraska Library Commission main entrance and close to the Talking Books Reader Services counter.

Access is easier for staff and volunteers. Six handsome audio production booths line the south wall—two pairs of studios and control rooms, and two booths for postproduction (editing, mark-up, and review). While the overall space is reduced from approximately 12,000 square feet to 8,000, the first floor wing offers quality space that is better proportioned for stacks and work areas with

fewer odd-shaped nooks. Changes in talking book technology resulted in more compact talking books, so stacks were reduced without impacting service.

At times, a major building project feels like a long, dark tunnel. But the end of the tunnel is very worth-



Scott Scholz, Talking Books and Braille Service Acting Director, in the new Talking Books stacks.

while. All Talking Book staff and volunteers are now on the same floor. The studios where volunteers narrate are just inside the building's front doors—a real advantage to anyone with a mobility issue. Path of travel is shorter between the mail dock and book circulation area. The Talking Book and Braille Service has more visibility from the street and sidewalk. Tours are

easier. And the training room, though smaller than before, is now street level instead of lower level. As the project was underway, an unexpected surprise was the informal support received from other individuals in the building. When they saw that the Library Commission was preparing the space to bring its operations closer together on the same floor, they said, "Oh, that makes sense."



Anna Walter provides telephone assistance to a Talking Books customer.



Nicholas Westra reviews a recording, checking for mistakes, noise, etc.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Kenny

Nebraska Libraries On The Web

Currently hosting more than 80 of Nebraska's library Web sites



Nebraska Libraries Assisted in Building a Web Presence

The Nebraska Library Commission facilitated website development for seventy-five Nebraska libraries through **Nebraska Libraries on the Web**, using WordPress as the website platform and hosting the sites on Library Commission servers at no charge to the libraries. Libraries selected customizable templates and received free technology support and online, video-based training from the Library Commission.

This service is available to legally-established Nebraska public libraries with the understanding that they will post on a regular basis to keep their websites active and up-to-date. For more information see <http://libraries.ne.gov> or contact Craig Lefteroff, Nebraska Library Commission Technology Innovation Librarian, craig.lefteroff@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3106, 800-307-2665.



Chat about a good talking book.



Talking Books are free for anyone who has difficulty holding a book, turning a page, or seeing regular print. The recordings are loaned and returned through the mail – postage-free – or can be downloaded.

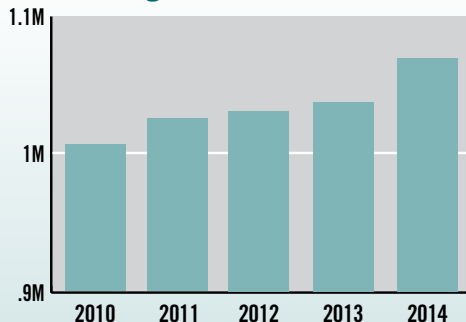
Nebraska Library Commission
Talking Book and Braille Service

402-471-4038 • 800-742-7691

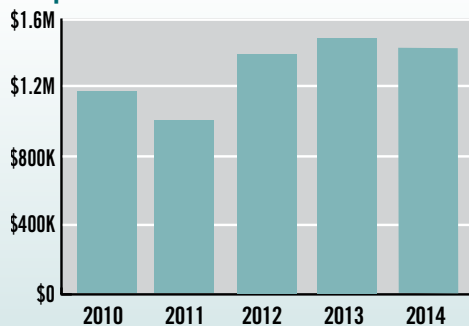
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Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

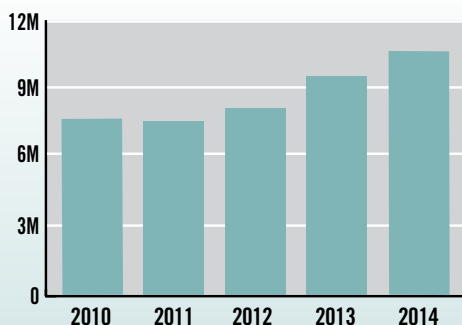
Registered Borrowers



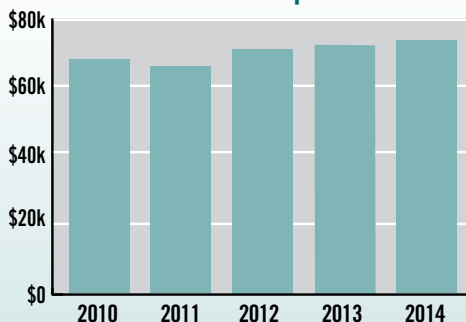
Expenditures on Electronic Materials



Collection Size



Total Collection Expenditures



The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska, 2014-2015

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), there are 9,082 public libraries in the United States. In Nebraska, there are 255 legally established public libraries plus 7 bookmobiles and 21 branch facilities. Eight libraries in the state are combined with public schools and two are combined public/academic libraries. The 2014 *Public Libraries Survey* in Nebraska was completed by 81 percent of these libraries. The results provide a dependable measure of overall library service and usage trends in Nebraska.

The number of eBooks and Audiobooks held and used has increased dramatically, due in large part to more libraries participating in the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium. There are at least two participating libraries in every legislative district in the state. Looking at Internet connectivity in public libraries, the trend in Nebraska indicates an increase in the number of libraries with faster connections. Between 2013 and 2014, there was a 31 percent decrease in the number of libraries offering connection speeds less than 3.0 Mbps, and a 23 percent increase in libraries offering connection speeds in excess of 24 Mbps.

Overall circulation of material has decreased, but uses of non-print resources have increased. Greater numbers of library programs and increased attendance indicate that public libraries are actively engaging community members in learning events at all age levels. Collections of audio and video materials (both physical and downloadable) continue to rise steadily, with audio and video physical holdings increasing more than three and five percent, respectively.



Other trends revealed by the results of the 2014 Nebraska *Public Libraries Survey* include the following:

- 154 Nebraska Public Libraries loaned eBooks – that's 60% of legally established Nebraska public libraries. The population served by these libraries is 1,541,684 or 82 percent of all Nebraska residents.
- Number of total resources in Nebraska public libraries: 10,689,488 items
- Number of Internet computers available to the public: 2,803
- Public libraries loaned 13,006,657 items in FY2014
- Libraries that connect to their customers through social networks: 152 or 57 percent
- Number of registered library users: 1,070,816
- Number of public library visits per year: 8,213,065
- Libraries providing wireless Internet access: 95 percent
- Libraries delivered 31,582 programs, attended by 706,865 people
- Libraries with a website: 163 or 75 percent of survey respondents.
- Nebraskans paid only \$33.45 per capita in 2014 for public library service
- Seven Nebraska public libraries were recognized as "Star Libraries" in the 2014 *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service*.

(continued on page 9)

The State of Public Libraries in Nebraska (continued)

Selected Library Statistics, FY 2011-2012 through 2013-2014

	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	3-Yr Change
Registered Borrowers	1,026,086	1,031,149	1,070,816	4.18%
Total Visits	8,656,034	8,525,436	8,213,065	-5.39%
Items Borrowed	13,497,292	13,217,839	13,005,617	-3.78%
Items Borrowed per Capita	9	9	8	-10.07%
Internet Computers for Public Use	2,687	2,849	2,803	4.14%
Libraries Providing Free Wi-Fi	211	215	206	-2.43%
Number of Programs Offered	27,159	28,485	31,582	14.00%
Library Program Attendance	686,531	655,259	709,070	3.18%
Number of Books in Collection	5,659,397	5,549,691	5,603,018	-1.01%
Number of Print Subscriptions	14,055	13,084	12,738	-10.34%
Number of Audio Materials	253,265	241,770	249,604	-1.47%
Number of Video Materials	311,225	311,158	327,892	5.08%
Total Materials held	8,288,600	9,359,462	10,689,488	22.46%
Annual Hours Open	415,953	427,097	416,744	0.19%
Legal Service Area Population	1,453,012	1,529,192	1,541,684	5.75%
Local Government Revenue	47,694,603	49,634,811	50,978,226	6.44%

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE EQUALIZERS

There are **8.5 Million** annual visits to Nebraska public libraries (not including virtual library visits).ⁱ That's more than **5 times** the total attendance at home Nebraska football, volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball, men's basketball, women's basketball games, and the college world series, **combined**.ⁱⁱ

More than 21% of Nebraskans **do not** have access to high-speed Internet (a paid Internet service other than dial-up) at home.ⁱⁱⁱ They often rely on their public libraries.

Nebraska Public Libraries are Technology Equalizers

- **99%** offer **FREE** public Internet accessⁱ
- **95%** offer **FREE** Wifiⁱ
- **98%** offer online employment resources^{iv}
- **97%** offer computer training^{iv}
- **98%** offer assistance with completing government forms online^{iv}
- **668,529** — eBook and Audiobook checkouts in 2014
- **204,502** — number of times users had to wait for desired eBook and Audiobook titles in 2014
- **1.5 Million** — population served by Nebraska public libraries participating in Nebraska eReads



Library Programs Energize Community Connections

- **17,000** Children's Programs offered, with **490,000** attendeesⁱ
- **2,600** Young Adult Programs offered, with **37,000** attendeesⁱ
- **8,000** Adult Programs, with **125,000** attendeesⁱ
- **Invaluable** catalyst for community connection and early childhood literacy

SOURCES:

ⁱ 2012-2013 Nebraska Public Library Survey (85% reporting)

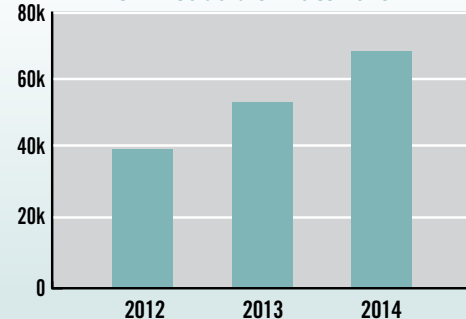
ⁱⁱ 2012-2013 Nebraska Public Library Survey (85% reporting) and UNL Athletic Media Relations

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/acs/acs-28.pdf>

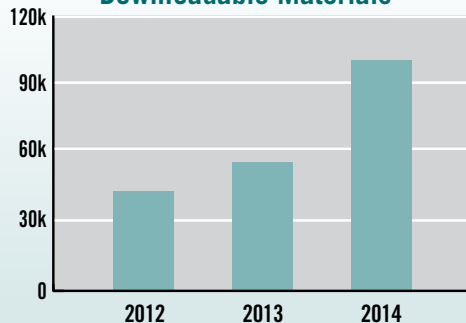
^{iv} 2013 Digital Inclusion Survey, <http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/state-details/NE>

Nebraska Public Library Statistical Survey

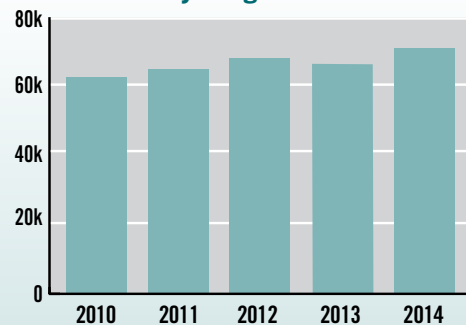
Circulation of Adult Downloadable Materials



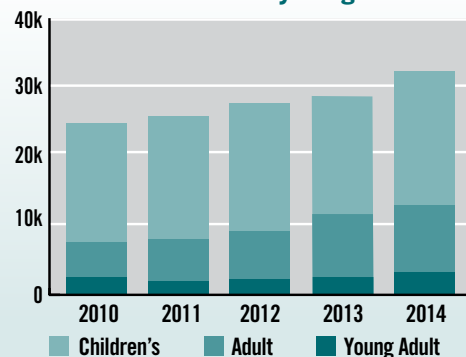
Circulation of Childrens Downloadable Materials



Total Library Program Attendance



Number of Library Programs



NCompass Live Wednesday Webinars Grow

The Nebraska Library Commission continues to offer free online webinars broadcast live every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CT. During FY2015, fifty-one episodes of *NCompass Live* were broadcast with 1,329 attendees. Audience members watched from forty-four

U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and from Canada and Jamaica. *NCompass Live* sessions were presented by Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest speakers from public, academic and school libraries in Nebraska, as well as from Florida,

Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Virginia.

More than 330 archived sessions are recorded and available for viewing at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive/NCArchivist.asp>. For the list of

upcoming sessions, go to <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ncompasslive>. To suggest a topic, contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Consultant, christa.burns@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3107, 800-307-2265. ♦♦

NCompass ▶ live



Library Commission Provides Government Information Services

In FY2015 the Nebraska Library Commission provided a variety of government information services through the reference staff and collections. The largest collection is the Nebraska State Publications Clearinghouse, which collects and houses all Nebraska state agency publications released to the public. Examples of state agency publications include annual reports, audit reports, research reports from agencies such as the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and University of Nebraska, statistical information from agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Revenue, and many more.

More than 168,000 state documents were made available for direct loan, with more than 9,200 of those available electronically online. Nebraska publications were searched in the Library Commission's online catalog or on the state publications online web page. Additionally, more than 47,000 federal publications, many accessible through the Internet, were made available. Government information reference services are available at nlc.ask@nebraska.gov, 402-471-2045, and Internet chat (<http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/ask.asp>). For more information, contact Mary Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission Government Information Services Librarian, mary.sauers@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4017, 800-307-2665, or Bonnie Henzel, Nebraska Library Commission State Documents Staff Assistant, bonnie.henzel@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6285, 800-307-2665. ♦♦

Committee Assists with Talking Book Policies

The Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service represents the needs of readers by making recommendations concerning policies, programs, and services. The nine-member committee, comprised of talking book readers and service providers, met twice in the past fiscal year.

The committee approved revisions in the Loan Policy and Reproduction of Materials Policy, necessitated by the completion of the transition to digital talking books. The Loan Policy has a direct impact on talking book and Braille readers since it is a broad-based policy that governs the circulation of books, magazines, and equipment to eligible users of the service. The Reproduction of Materials policy impacts on resource use since it indicates the circumstances under which audio books and magazines will be duplicated for circulation to readers.

The Committee continues to be interested in helping make the Talking Book and Braille Service better known among potential readers. To help inform communication efforts, committee members were asked how

they first learned about the Talking Book and Braille Service—and if there was a time lag between when they qualified for service and when they signed up, why they delayed talking book service. The committee suggested that outreach efforts should include more contact with Nebraska libraries. For more information about Talking Book and Braille Service, contact Scott Scholz, Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Acting Director, scott.scholz@nebraska.gov, 402-471-6553, 800-307-2665.

Committee members for FY2015 included:

Jim Berryman, Grand Island
Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Lyons
Patricia Candy, Kearney
Shasta Coverdell, Omaha
Elizabeth C. Evermann, Lincoln
Eloise Hiatt, Lincoln
Susan Ledder, Lincoln
Linda Marie Mentink, Columbus
Dan Nieman, South Sioux City
Beth Pakiz, Omaha
Kristal Platt, Omaha
Shirley Weihsing, Gering
John Wick, Omaha ♦♦

Affiliated Funds Support Nebraska Libraries

Nebraska Community Foundation serves more than two hundred community-based, organizational and donor-driven funds benefiting communities across the state. Each year dozens of grants are made through these affiliated funds providing thousands of dollars to support local libraries. One exceptional fund is the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund. It was established by the estate of Shirley Kreutz Bennett as a term endowment to be expended over a period of not more than twenty years for the exclusive purpose of supporting small-town libraries.

A lifelong learner, Shirley graduated from Harvard High School in 1941, earned a BA from the University of Washington, Seattle, plus an MA and Ph.D. from Columbia University, N.Y. Shirley was a retired Professor of Education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Each year, the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund advisory committee, made up of Shirley's nieces and nephews, awards matching grants for public libraries in

Nebraska communities with a population of less than 3,000.

For planning grants and program enhancement grants, the Fund provides a match of two dollars for every local dollar raised. For facility improvement or building grants, there is a required three to one match in local dollars. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The Nebraska Community Foundation and Nebraska Library Commission screen applicants for eligibility and provide guidance for those who are invited to submit proposals. For example, libraries that are not accredited may only apply for planning grants that lead to accreditation.

Since its first grant cycle in 2012, the Fund has awarded thirty-one grants totaling \$317,656. The largest community to benefit is Minden, population 2,990. The smallest is Hildreth with a population of 370. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, richard.miller@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665.



Nebraska Library Commission Purchases Statewide License

The Nebraska Library Commission funded a statewide license for public viewing of motion pictures in Nebraska public libraries during the biennium, at a cost of \$16,388. All Nebraska public libraries are covered by the license agreement between the Library Commission and Movie Licensing USA. With this license,

motion pictures were shown as part of library services and programming at Nebraska public libraries throughout the year. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, sally.snyder@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665.



Dora Lane

Source: Thorpe Opera House/Boston Studio Project

Nebraska Memories Preserves the Past

Nebraska Memories offered access to digitized Nebraska-related primary source materials, including glass-plate negatives, photographs, postcards, stereoscopes, sheet music, maps, manuscripts, documents, and oral histories at <http://memories.nebraska.gov>. Specific collections and items were featured in blog postings each week, see the Nebraska Memories category on the *NCompass Blog* at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog>.

In addition to materials from Nebraska cultural institutions, donated materials were accepted for the first time and added to Nebraska Memories. For more information or to consult on materials for inclusion, contact Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665.

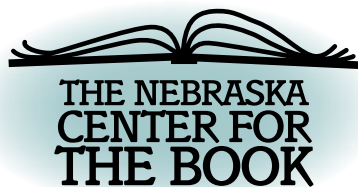
Chief Hollow Horn Bear



Source: Nebraska Historical Society

Library Commission Hosts Center for the Book

The Nebraska Library Commission provided financial and staff assistance to the Nebraska Center for the Book, which brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book—supporting the following activities:



significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska. He was cited for leadership and service in the promotion of Nebraska literature—following in the footsteps of Mildred

Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

Nebraska Book Festivals. The twenty-third Nebraska Book Festival was held at the University of Nebraska Omaha's Weitz Community Engagement Center and attended by ninety-one writers, readers, and fans of Nebraska stories. It featured writers' workshops in the morning and author readings/talks in the afternoon. The student/teacher writing teams of the NeBooks Project presented an iBooks Showcase, featuring iBooks published by Nebraska school teams. Students from Lexington Public Schools shared their experiences with the research, writing, and publishing process. The Bookworm and University of Nebraska Press offered Nebraska-related books for sale. The Nebraska Book Festival was sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Friends of the University of Nebraska Press and the NeBooks Project.

Jane Geske Award. The Nebraska Library Commission was presented the 2014 Jane Geske Award. The award—a piece of art by a Nebraska artist—is given annually to honor exceptional contribution to Nebraska literature, literacy, books, reading, libraries, and bookselling in Nebraska. The award pays tribute to Jane Pope Geske, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and long-time active member in many Nebraska library and literary activities.

Mildred Bennett Award. Nebraska Library Commission Director **Rod Wagner** was recognized for

Nebraska Book Awards. Nebraska books were honored in FY2015 in the categories of anthology, children/young adult, cover/design/illustration, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. These books were written by Nebraska authors, published in Nebraska, or set in Nebraska. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/winners/nebook.html>.

NCB News. Library Commission staff helped develop and distribute two editions of the Center for the Book newsletter (<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/news.html>) with news about Nebraska literature and literacy, book reviews, feature articles, and a calendar of events.

National Book Festival. Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, D.C. to staff the Nebraska exhibit at the Pavilion of the States in Washington, D.C. They shared information about Nebraska literature with more than 5,000 visitors.

National Idea Exchange. The Library Commission provided assistance for Nebraska Center for the Book Treasurer Donna Kennedy Marvin to represent the Center for the Book at the National Idea Exchange in Washington, D.C. The information-sharing activity kept the board apprised of what's happening at the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and at state Centers for the Book around the country.

Letters about Literature. Nebraska students were recognized this year by Governor Pete Ricketts for their letters to authors that influenced their lives. In this annual national reading/writing contest, young readers wrote letters to an author explaining how his or her work changed their way of thinking about the world or themselves. For a complete list of winners, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>.

Celebration of Nebraska Books. This celebration featured the current One Book One Nebraska selection, honored winners of the Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announced the choice for next year's One Book One Nebraska reading program. Winning authors read from their books and signed copies. The Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting was held just prior to the celebration, with a reception concluding the event.

One Book One Nebraska. The Commission supported the One Book One Nebraska program—assisting with selection and promotion of a title for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. This year's One Book One Nebraska selection was *Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting* (University of Nebraska Press, 2013) by Beverly Deepe Kever. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state hosted activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/onebook.html>. For more information about Center for the Book activities, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov> and <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>, or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665. ➡

Libraries Receive E-rate Discounts

Nebraska schools and libraries were awarded \$10.6 million in discounts on telecommunications costs during FY2015 through the Universal Service Fund E-rate program. Nebraska schools and libraries submitted 776 applications for 1,573 requests and \$314,354 in discounts. Discounts ranged from 20 to 90 percent, with 112 of the state's public libraries participating, including the Nebraska Library Commission and Regional Library Systems. One hundred eleven libraries were awarded Telecommunications discounts, and 65 were also awarded discounts on Internet services. One hundred two of the 112 libraries participating in the E-rate program had 60 to 80 percent discounts on their telecommunications and/or Internet access bills.

Discounts are awarded on a sliding scale based on the percentage of students in the local school district who are eligible for the free and reduced school lunch program, an indicator of the local level of need, and the county's rural or urban status as determined by the U.S. Census.

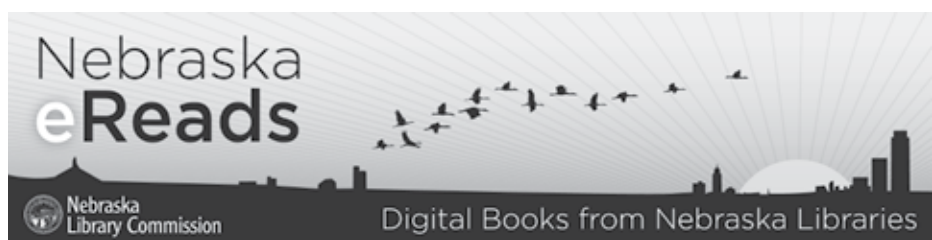
The Nebraska Library Commission provides education, training, and consultation services to Nebraska library staff to assist with E-rate applications. For more information about E-rate support in Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/erate/> or contact Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Consultant, christa.burns@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3107, 800-307-2265. Additional information is available at <http://www.usac.org/sl>. ➡



Commission Focuses on Continuing Education

The Nebraska Library Commission continued a long-standing commitment to support Nebraska libraries in their efforts to improve library service by providing continuing education (CE) and training for library staff members. From July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, the Commission sponsored or underwrote 404 events, attended by 2,952 Nebraska library staffers. These training activities included the annual *Big Talk from Small Libraries* online conference, sixteen online *Basic Skills* training courses, *Cataloging Certificate* training, E-Rate training, Summer Reading training, and weekly *NCompass Live* webinars. In conjunction with the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service, the Nebraska Library Commission offered a *Technology 101* series of workshops in seven locations around the state. Strategic planning training continued as new Accreditation guidelines require that libraries conduct community strategic planning efforts.

The Nebraska Library Commission also underwrote access to the Skillsoft online training course for all Nebraska library staff members and membership in *United for Libraries*, a division of the American Library Association, for Nebraska public libraries to ensure access to training materials for library volunteers, foundation, Friends, and Trustee board members. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, richard.miller@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665. ➡



Nebraskans Enjoy Downloadable Reading

The Nebraska OverDrive Libraries Consortium increased from 150 to 168 member libraries during the year, and library customers downloaded 151,561 audiobooks and 308,158 eBooks. Nebraska eReads funding, approved by the legislature for the Nebraska Library Commission's FY2015 budget, provided Nebraska OverDrive Consortium libraries with an additional \$69,302 to purchase materials. The total Nebraska eReads funding of \$150,000 was divided among the statewide consortium, Omaha Public Library, Ralston Public Library, and Lincoln City Libraries—based on the size of their legal service areas.

OverDrive users benefited from new features during the year including all available audiobooks now in MP3 format, new mobile apps, and

a browser-based eBook reader.

The Library Commission coordinated and supported the OverDrive service for Nebraska OverDrive Consortium libraries, contributed funds for materials purchased, and negotiated a new five-year contract. Legally-established public libraries (population under 100,000) were invited to participate. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/overdrive> or contact Susan Knisely, Nebraska Library Commission Online Services Librarian, susan.knisely@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3849, 800-307-2665, or Devra Dragos, Nebraska Library Commission Technology & Access Services Director, devra.dragos@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4335, 800-307-2665. ➡

Commission Funds Regional Library Systems

The Library Commission provided \$485,519 in continuing financial support for Nebraska's Regional Library Systems during FY2015. These nonprofit organizations, governed by boards representative of libraries and citizens in the region, worked to improve library services through cooperation between all types of libraries and school media centers within each system area. On January 1, 2015, Nebraska's regional library systems downsized from six to four systems, adjusting their bylaws and incorporation documents to reconfigure their system boundaries and revise counties served. They changed their names and the boards reorganized to assure broad representation. A summary of the changes is outlined below:

- **Central Plains Library System** includes (with some changes) counties served by the former Meridian and Republican Valley library systems. The System's main office is located in Hastings, with a satellite office in Kearney.
- **Southeast Library System** includes counties served by the previous Southeast Library System, plus additional counties. The system office remains in Lincoln.
- **Three Rivers Library System** includes (with some changes) counties served by the former Eastern and Northeast library systems. The system office is located in Omaha.
- **Western Library System** includes all counties served by the former *Panhandle Library System*, plus additional counties. The system office remains in Scottsbluff.

Each system offers a variety of services including newsletters, library staff meetings, training resources, workshops, consulting, and planning assistance. With the support of the

Library Commission, the Regional Library Systems provided to area libraries:

Resource Sharing. Among items loaned were book discussion kits, videos, laptops and projectors, gaming kits, Playaway books, professional journals and magazines, storytelling kits, iPods and MP3 players, eReaders, laminator, binding system, Poetry kits, Spanish kits, DVD players, cutting machines and dies, and scanners.

Consultation. System administrators consulted with member libraries on numerous topics including weeding, collection development, strategic planning and accreditation, E-rate discounts, personnel policies and hiring, automation systems, interlibrary loan (ILL), computer security, censorship, and data collection. They communicated with member libraries in person and through newsletters, websites, flyers, email, listservs, social networking sites, and meetings of library staff and supporters.

Continuing Education (CE). The Systems partnered with the Library Commission to present sessions on Trustee Training and Board Development (including "Planning for Nebraska Public Libraries"), children's services (including summer reading programs), collection management, policies, copyright, eBooks/eReaders, and Makerspaces. They facilitated annual meetings, specialized meetings and training for public library directors and youth services librarians, workshops on automation software, and pre-conferences and sessions at the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association (NLA/NSLA) conference. They taught online Basic Skills classes and staffed exhibit booths to educate stakeholders about local library services.

System Highlights included:

Central Plains Library System (CPLS)

In the inaugural six months from January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015, CPLS:

- Traveled more than 11,000 miles visiting libraries to offer continuing education and individualized consulting.
- Consulted via telephone, email, and in person on many topics including Library Board training, hiring a new Library Director, E-rate, programming, policies, certification of staff and accreditation of libraries, cataloging, weeding, and collection arrangement.
- Coordinated workshops for school and public librarians about eReaders and OverDrive, Makerspaces, Pioneer Consortium, strategic planning, and the Summer Reading Program.
- Participated in cooperative projects including the Tri-City Education Fair at the Hastings Museum, *NCompass Live* webinar with all the System Directors doing book reviews, and co-sponsored the NLA Public Library and Trustee Sections (PLTS) Spring Meetings and the Day of Education in Kearney.
- Cleaned audio, video, and game discs and repaired book bindings to keep items circulating from member libraries' collections.
- Provided access to 118 professional journal articles through electronic delivery.
- Circulated audiobooks, professional books, die cutting equipment, classroom book sets, Spanish language kits, and Wii gaming systems.
- Distributed three newsletters and sixty-five display ideas.
- Maintained a website, a Pinterest account, and a Flickr account for member libraries' information.
- Established a new service loaning complete sets of all three levels of Golden Sower titles to school and public libraries.

(continued on page 15)



Commission Funds Regional Library Systems *(continued)*

Southeast Library System (SELS)

- Sponsored or cosponsored twenty-seven continuing education opportunities for more than 155 hours of CE opportunity on topics such as strategic planning, succession planning, formal writing, charitable gaming, using music in children's programming, the Talking Book and Braille Services, Makerspaces, building teen groups, working with home schoolers, unattended persons policies, and more.
- Visited thirty-three libraries for one-on-one consulting or assistance, spending more than 120 hours on topics such as weeding, strategic planning, state statutes, personnel policies, cataloging, library policies, building layouts, new director orientation, copyright, selecting library ILS vendors, and more
- Published twelve issues of the newsletter, which included articles and updates from more than fifty libraries of all types.
- Supplied twenty-eight member libraries with nearly 850 pages of professional literature in the first year of a new Journal Article Request Service.
- Circulated book kits, professional journals, and professional literature nearly 200 times.

Three Rivers Library System (TRLS)

- Born January 1, 2015
- Sponsored/Cosponsored continuing education including Summer Reading Program, Strategic Planning, Curb and Counter Appeal, and NLA PLTS Spring Meeting.
- Visited and consulted with more than fifty libraries in the new system with an emphasis on public libraries working toward accreditation.
- Provided consultation to libraries on topics including strategic planning, accreditation, open meetings law, trustee roles and responsibilities,

ties, and collection management.

- Loaned book club kits and professional books and journals to school and public librarians.
- Created a system website through "Nebraska Libraries on the Web" project, with close to 1,000 views within a few months of establishing it.

Western Library System (WLS) during FY2015

- Provided Job-a-Like sessions and librarian meetings for networking and idea-sharing.
- Published six newsletters.
- Taught "Intellectual Freedom and Core Values" online Basic Skills class to thirty students.
- Consulted with 120 libraries.
- Traveled 12,000 miles.
- Attended conferences including ARSL, Tacoma, WA; NLA/NSLA, South Sioux City, NE; ALA, San Francisco, CA; Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Meeting, Loveland, CO.
- Facilitated six WLS board meetings and the legal process for the reconfiguration of the library system.
- Staffed community events and promotional exhibits including Nebraska City League of Municipalities annual meeting, North Platte Legacy of the Plains annual meeting, and Alliance Chautauqua. ➡

Commission Supports Children's Services

Throughout FY2015, the Nebraska Library Commission continued to make support for library services to children a priority. The Commission supported the statewide Summer Reading Program by providing training and materials. The Library Commission provided statewide workshops, co-sponsored by the Regional Library Systems. Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, gave book-talks across the state. The Library Commission supplied manuals and booklists to complement the theme. Additional materials were made available on the Library Commission website. As a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program consortium, which consists of all fifty states and the District of Columbia and two territories, the Library Commission contributed funding for development and distribution of Summer Reading Program materials to libraries across Nebraska, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading>. Children and teens also participated in the Summer Reading Program through the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. The 2015 theme was "Every Hero Has a Story," the teen theme was "Unmask!" and the adult theme was "Escape the Ordinary."

Children's Services grants were awarded to public libraries and regional library systems for a total of \$25,000. Funded projects were designed to provide afterschool programming for elementary school age children, purchase STEM/STEAM focused materials for activities for young adult programs, provide a book club of ten girls and chaperones to meet monthly, and more. The Library Commission awards these grants annually to give Nebraska libraries the opportunity to expand youth services in new directions. It is expected that this funding will provide a foundation for ongoing services that will be continued with community support or through reallocation of library funds. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, sally.snyder@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665. ➡



Nebraska Library Commission

The Atrium
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023
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PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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STATE OF
NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Library Commission Reference Service had the busiest month ever in March 2015, responding to 3,079 requests for information—for an average of 140 customer transactions per day.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:



Nebraska Library Commission Highlights and Statistics / July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015

- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission circulated **11,291** items, with book club circulation representing **10,047**
- ☞ The Library Commission served **1,873** customers onsite.
- ☞ The Library Commission loaned **200** items to other libraries.
- ☞ The Library Commission borrowed **5,540** items from other libraries for Nebraska library customers.
- ☞ Nebraska Overdrive Libraries Consortium library customers (from **168** participating libraries) downloaded **151,561** audiobooks and **308,158** eBooks.
- ☞ The Library Commission's Nebraska Memories collection grew to **11,047** images and audio files.
- ☞ **3,090** state documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **168,689**.
- ☞ **560** federal documents were added to the Library Commission's collection, bringing the total to **47,513**.
- ☞ **1,212** electronic state documents were added, bringing the total of state e-docs to **9,244**. These e-docs were accessed **59,764** times.
- ☞ Nebraska Library Commission staff and guest trainers broadcast **51** *NCompass Live* sessions, with **1,329** attending live and thousands viewing the archived recordings.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission hosted and supported websites for **75** public libraries and **3** regional library systems.
- ☞ The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service circulated **153,435** talking books, magazines, Braille materials, and videos with audio description to more than **3,600** customers.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service recorded **124** magazine issues and **2** books.
- ☞ The Talking Book and Braille Service duplicated **31,358** digital cartridges.
- ☞ Talking Book and Braille Service customers downloaded **19,455** audio books and **567** audio magazines, **1,108** Braille books, **50** Braille magazines, and **150** music instruction materials.
- ☞ **2,952** Nebraska library staff and board members attended **404** continuing education events sponsored or underwritten by the Nebraska Library Commission, including **454** who participated in **16** Basic Skills sessions.
- ☞ **1,599** library staff participated in the Nebraska Librarian Certification program, up from **910** in FY 2014.
- ☞ **169** public libraries were accredited.

